

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth
Sunday, February 5th, 2023
Rev. Gerry Gallant**

**A lighthouse that blows no horns
Fifth Sunday After Epiphany
Matthew 5:13-20**

Welcome

Announcements

Call to Worship

In Christ, the God of heaven has made his home on earth.
Christ dwells among us and is one with us.

Highest of all creation, he lives among the least.
He journeys with the rejected and welcomes the weary.

Come now, all who thirst,
and drink the water of life.

Come now, all who hunger,
and be filled with good things.

Come now, all who seek,
and be warmed by the fire of love. Amen.

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

O God, our guide and guardian,
you have led us apart from the busy world into the quiet of your house.
Grant us grace to worship you in spirit and in truth,
to the comfort of our souls
and the upbuilding of every good purpose and holy desire.
Enable us to do more perfectly the work to which you have called us,
that we may not fear the coming of night,
when we shall surrender into your hands
the tasks which you have committed to us.
So may we worship you not with our lips only at this hour,
but in word and deed all the days of our lives,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen

Opening Hymn #497: "Word of God, Across the Ages"

Word of God, across the ages
 comes your message to our life,
 source of hope, forever present
 in our toil and fears and strife,
 constant witness to God's mercy,
 still our grace, whatever be fall,
 guide unfailing, strength eternal,
 offered freely to us all.

Story of our wondrous journey
 from the shadows of the night,
 garnered truth of sage and prophet,
 guiding forward into light,
 words and deeds of Christ our teacher,
 pointing to the life and way,
 still appealing, still inspiring,
 in the struggles of today.

In the tongues of all the peoples
 may the message bless and heal,
 as devout and patient scholars
 more and more its depths reveal.
 Bless, O God, to wise and simple,
 all your truth of ageless worth,
 till all lands receive the witness
 and your knowledge fills the earth.

Call to Confession

Prepare the way of the Lord!
 Let us make our confession to God.

Prayer of Confession

**Have mercy on me, O God, in your faithful love,
 in your great tenderness wipe away my offences.
 wash me thoroughly from my guilt,
 purify me from my sin.
 For I am well aware of my offences,
 my sin is constantly in mind.**

**Against you, you alone, I have sinned,
 I have done what you see to be wrong,**

that you may show your saving justice when you pass sentence,
and your victory may appear when you give judgment,
remember, I was born guilty,
a sinner from the moment of conception.

But you delight in sincerity of heart,
and in secret you teach me wisdom.
God, create in me a clean heart,
renew within me a resolute spirit,
do not thrust me away from your presence,
do not take away from me your spirit of holiness.
Give me back the joy of your salvation,
sustain in me a generous spirit.

Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will speak out your praise.
Sacrifice gives you no pleasure,
burnt offering you do not desire.
Sacrifice to God is a broken spirit,
a broken, contrite heart you never scorn.
In the name of our Savior Jesus Christ we pray,
Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Know this Sons and Daughters of the Lord,
He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross,
so that, free from sins,
we might live for righteousness.
by his wounds you have been healed

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the Evil One.
For Thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory,
Forever and ever. Amen.

Music Ministry: "Bread of the World" by Choir

Responsive Reading

Question 124. How do we summarize the last six commandments?

“You shall love your neighbour as yourself” (Matthew 22:39) is how Jesus summarized them in what he called the second commandment that is like to the first and greatest commandment. He noted, “On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets” (Matthew 22:40).

Lev 19:18, Mk 12:29-31

Question 125. What are the uses of the law?

The law, too, comes from the goodness of God and is for our benefit and freedom. It acts as a mirror to show us our sin, that we may seek our Saviour, Jesus Christ; it keeps our feet from wrongful or dangerous paths; it leads us to joy in knowing and following God’s way.

Ps 19:7, Deut 10:12, Rom 5:20

Question 126. Can we fulfil the demands of the law?

No. We fall far short of what God requires. The good news is that “if we freely admit that we have sinned, we find God utterly reliable and straightforward – he forgives our sins and makes us thoroughly clean from all that is evil” (1 John 1:9 (J.B. Phillips)).

Ps 14:3, Rom 7:22-25

Children’s Hymn #498: “Sing Them Over Again to Me”

Sing them over again to me,
 Wonderful words of life;
 Let me more of their beauty see,
 Wonderful words of life;
 Words of life and beauty
 Teach me faith and duty.

Refrain:

Beautiful words, wonderful words,
 Wonderful words of life;
 Beautiful words, wonderful words,
 Wonderful words of life.

Christ, the blessed one, gives to all
 Wonderful words of life;
 Sinner, list to the loving call,
 Wonderful words of life;
 All so freely given,
 Wooing us to heaven. [Refrain]

Sweetly echo the gospel call,
 Wonderful words of life;
 Offer pardon and peace to all,
 Wonderful words of life;

Jesus, only Savior,
Sanctify forever. [Refrain]

Children's Lesson

(Paused)

Prayer for illumination

(Congregant Prepared)

Scripture

Matthew 5:13-20

¹³ "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Sermon

Dwight Moody used to begin speaking on this section of the book of Matthew by sharing a story with his congregation about a woman who lived in a small town in England.

Moody spoke of a young Christian woman who had married a non-Christian man. She had tried over and over to convince her husband to become Christian, yet her husband refused. She wanted the pastor to meet her husband, he refused. She tried to have him read the bible with her, he refused. Even when she brought up the subject of Christianity, he refused to listen.

Finally seeing that no matter how she approached the subject of his faith he would refuse to budge in his ways she set her mind to prayer. Every day she would spend an hour in prayer for her husband in a small room of the house she had set aside for her time with God.

She never spoke about God to her husband again, but every day, rain, or shine, full of energy or exhausted, sick or healthy she would spend an hour in prayer talking with God about her husband and his ways.

After a full year of prayer nothing had changed, her husband was still the same man who pushed away all talk of God with everyone he met. Yet she still did not give up, she continued to pray every day.

Six more months passed by and her dedication and strength started to waver, she began to wonder if her prayers were futile, she began to ask if God would ever answer her prayers.

As her faith in prayer wavered, she was preparing dinner for her husband and awaiting his return from work. At dinner he did not come to the table, she looked all over the house and could not find him in any room or in the yard. Finally, in desperation she headed to her prayer room, and it was there that she found her husband, kneeling before God and praying for forgiveness from his sins.

Dwight Moody summed the story up this way, he said, 'A holy life will make the deepest impression. Lighthouses blow no horns, they just shine'.

We should all be asking ourselves 'Are we lighthouses in our life of faith? What are our priorities in life? What do we do first and what do we set aside for tomorrow?

Are we persevering in prayer, even when it seems like God is not answering our prayers in the way, or according to the timeline that we want Him to answer them?

Remember that when Jesus was speaking herein today's scripture he was speaking to his disciples. He had just spoken to them about the beatitudes, the blessings that come to God's people when they live a holy life according to God's teachings.

To disciples who were living in a culture that was dominated over by the culture of Roman as they lived under its rulership. They were living under the teachings of Christ that went against the teachings of the spiritual teachings of the law by the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Jesus had just laid out eight ways that Christians should live faithfully, eight ways that Christians should be set apart for the culture that they live in and how living that way would bring joy into their lives, even when the things of this world were troublesome or difficult.

Jesus had called for them to live a life of spiritual desire, mourning the sins of this world and their own personal sinful nature. He had called for them to be gentle and meek, people who hunger for his righteousness and justice, people who live a life filled with charity and piety. People who loved the Lord their God first with all of their heart, soul, body and mind, and people who loved their neighbors as themselves – even when the world taught them otherwise and society judged or persecuted them for living that way.

Now he is going to take those expectations and turn them into applications in our day to day life. He will teach us how living by the beatitudes will impact our lives and the lives of those

around us each and every day. He is going to teach us what it means to be the salt and light of the world as we walk in it according to God's law.

He begins by telling his followers that they are the salt of the earth. Every Christian is the salt of the earth. Each and every one of you that has accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour are the salt of the earth!

Do you know what that means? Do you understand what Jesus is saying when he calls us the salt of the earth or is it simply something you have read in the scriptures or perhaps seen on a church sign somewhere as you drive past?

For many of us the depths of what Jesus is saying here is lost, because our understanding of salt is limited to the kitchen and cooking. We know that if you add too much to our food you will be thirsty and if you do not add enough to food, it will be bland.

Yet to the disciples gathered around Jesus as he spoke salt held a much higher value. They had the same understanding of salt and its importance in cooking and flavoring of food. However, to them salt also had many more uses and all of them were of importance.

In the temple salt was mixed in and used to season the various offerings to God before they were offered as burnt offerings. To them salt was part of the covenant law, a symbol of the relationship that existed between God and his people.

It was used in childbirth, newborns were often rubbed with salt as a symbol of the covenant, but also because of the cleansing and preserving properties that salt had and they hope that they would be passed onto the baby.

Salt also held value outside of the Israelites. Greeks and Romans both believed that salt had a divine nature. Romans actually paid their soldiers in the form of salt as it held a value like that of gold. This is actually the root of the modern English expressions 'not worth his salt'.

So, when Jesus is referring to them as salt it is not something simple but of great importance and value. Salt was special, and Jesus is telling his followers that they too are special. Special because they are set-apart from this world and called to live out the beatitudes which he had just given them.

Salt was special in its value and in its purpose, as are all followers of Christ.

Salt is effective when it comes into contact with things which lack salt. Salt that is in a pile of salt is not serving its purpose. Christians who are only in church and with fellow Christians are not living their call to be salt. For salt to serve its purpose it needs to be used as a payment, a flavoring or for cleansing.

Christians are called to be the salt of the world, to uphold to and live by the beatitudes in the world that we come into contact with every day. We are called to remain salt, to be that thing

that sets us apart, that blessing that makes us special to God, where we live, where we work, where we study, where we play.

We are called to be salty with family, friends, classmates and colleagues, strangers and even enemies. Our saltiness, our distinctively Christian behavior according to the beatitudes should set us apart from others in the world around each of us.

This saltiness has become even more important now that we live in a world where the moral relativism is always changing, we are to be set apart, to stay true to the teachings of God even as the rest of the world shifts away from those teachings. To maintain the standards of honesty, diligence in our work, standards of conscientiousness, standards of morality, and purity in our thought, speech and conduct, even when the world tells us that it is Ok to give those things up now.

It is by holding onto and living out the teachings of God that we maintain our saltiness and change the flavour of the world around us. Christians living a Christlike life make the world around them richer and better, in the same way adding salt to food makes it more flavorful.

Jesus is saying stay true to your faith, stay true to what you have been taught, maintain your Christianity, live by the beatitudes. Be salt and by doing so you will enrich the world around you.

He also speaks to those who lost their saltiness, those who instead of standing up to the ways of the world and adhering to the teachings of God, chose to conform to the ways of the world around them. He tells them very plainly that once salt has lost its saltiness it serves no purpose and is to be tossed out and trampled underfoot as it has lost its purpose.

If you are salt, you are changing the people around you, you are influencing them and how they behave, if you have lost your saltiness that world is influencing you and how you behave. So, Jesus is telling us to be salty.

However, he does not stop there, we are salt in the sense that we have influences over people that we are directly in contact with and because of that we can have a strong influence over them, yet he also calls us to be light, to not just influence those that we come into direct contact with, but also those with whom we may never come into contact.

It is by being the light in this dark world that we reach out beyond our direct circles of influence. We are to be examples of the Christian life, examples of the beatitudes to all who see us in our life.

Our light, our life as the salt of the world is meant to be seen by others. Our Christianity should be visible to everyone who sees us in this world. Christians who stop living their faith at the

door on Sunday as they leave service are of no use to anyone, they lose their saltiness and cover their light.

Christianity is not supposed to be a secret, there are no undercover disciples of Christ in the world. Instead, our faith should shine out from us in all of our words and actions. To anyone who looks on a Christian it should be apparent that they are different.

Jesus Clearly said we are the light of the world, not the light of the church.

This means we do not leave our faith at the door when we leave on Sunday after service, instead we are called to wear our faith everywhere we go and in everything we do. We are to be the light of the world, at work, at school, when we are out shopping at the grocery store or mall, when we play games, when we drive our vehicles and when we walk.

The light of our Christian life, our reflected nature of Christ should shine out into the darkness of this world. We all know how hard it is to move around in the dark. When the power goes out and we are cast into pitch black we immediately find a source of light, our phone, a flashlight or even a candle so that we can move around in the dark safely. Light is what makes it safe in the dark and that is what Christians are called to be for themselves and for others still on their walk to faith.

When we remain salty, when we remain true to our God in all things we act as a light to the others who might be trapped in the dark. The truth is that there are many people in the world who do not have strong moral convictions, there are many people who lack the courage to stand up to the evil ways of this world. However, when these people see someone else stand up for their moral or their beliefs, they are given the strength and courage to stand alongside them and eventually to begin to stand up for themselves.

A Christian who maintains their saltiness is a light that can lend its strength to others, a light that people can look to for a safe path through the darkness of this world. And as Christians it is our call through the beatitudes to stand for what God has taught us in all circumstances, and by doing so we become that guiding light in the world for those who are waiting, longing and seeking the path to Christ.

As the light that shines into the darkness we also serve as a warning for people of the dangers of the darkness. We shine into the darkness, into the sinful nature of mankind and serve as a warning for people of the dangers of sin. The destructive nature of sin is clear to everyone who walks in the light, and we are called to have the courage to speak up to others about these dangers in their lives so they are not trapped by the darkness in their own lives.

When we speak to others about the darkness, the sin in their lives, we are acting as salt, and we need to do so without anger, without irritation, without criticism, without condemnation, not out of a desire to hurt, but only out of a love for our brothers and sisters. When we do this, we are the salt and light of the world.

We are a light that is seen, a light that guides and a light that warns of the dangers.

The scripture today tells us that others are meant to see us, meant to see what we do. We are meant to bring our faith out into the world in our actions so that we can bring Glory to God in our lives.

The word that is used here in the Greek text is -kalos- which means that our deeds are both to be beautiful and attractive to others. We are called to do deeds in the world that glorify God and help to bring others to him. We are not to call attention to ourselves but only to God, who has given us the time, talents and treasures we have in our lives as we serve him.

So, as we walk in the world as the salt and light, we should recognize that it is not our power that allows us to this, but the glory of God who gives us the strength, the talents, the treasures and the time we need to do so in service of Him.

Which brings us to the law. Jesus was constantly breaking the Jewish law. He disobeyed the teachings of the Pharisees around handwashing, around the sabbath, around association with sinners. Yet here, he is telling his gathered disciples that they should uphold the letter of the law down to the smallest detail, to the smallest stroke of the pen.

To understand this, we need to examine what the law meant to the disciples gathered there that day. The Jews of Jesus's day had four expressions for the law. The first being the 10 commandments, the second was the first five books of the bible or the Pentateuch. The third was the complete scriptures including all of the books we refer to as the Old Testament. Finally, the word law could refer to all of the oral and scribal law that was followed.

At the time when Jesus spoke the most common understanding was that final one, law meant all of the scribal law which had been created over time by the various Jewish religious leaders, because the first three understanding of the law were confusing for many.

A good example of this is the sabbath, what did it mean to rest on the sabbath, so the religious leaders began to define their understanding of the sabbath and rest writing rules around the sabbath and recording them in the books of the law called the Talmud, the book of Jewish Law.

Eventually the Talmud became a book of sixty printed volumes, filled with thousands of legalistic rules and regulations that they expected all of the Jewish people to try to live according to in their lives. This is what the Sadducees and Pharisees are referring to when they speak of the law, and they took it seriously as they believed that their rules determined who would have eternal life and who would have eternal damnation.

So, when Jesus says that they need to obey the law to the smallest stroke of the pen they would be in shock, after all Jesus had himself been breaking those laws. They all knew it was absolutely impossible to live perfectly according to the Talmud. What is amazing is that there are still Jews in the present world who are trying to live perfectly according to the Talmud.

Yet this is not the law that Jesus is speaking of, Jesus is speaking of the scriptural law, the 10 commandments. When Jesus speaks of the law, he is telling his disciples that there are to live by the principles of the 10 commandments which are foundation of all the law.

Simplified this is what the 10 commandments teach; Respect and Reverence for God; God's name and God's Day. Respect for parents, for life, for property, for truth, for the good name of others and for ourselves.

Being the salt and light of the world means living with reverence and respect for our life in Jesus, not obeying all of the rules that the Jewish leaders had come up with in their Talmud. The 10 commandments are how we are called to live, not what we are not allowed to do. They remind us we are meant to be a positive influence in this world, not a negative one, to be light and not dark.

We cannot set aside any of the commandments, we cannot set aside the Word of God even if worldly religious leaders say it is ok to do so. We are called to live according to the law which God has given us, and not the laws of man which often change them from their intent. We are to live by the beatitudes as the salt and light of this word. Bastions in the darkness, a safe place for those in the dark who are seeking out Jesus Christ.

The law of man is often used to overturn the laws of God. The law of man is what the Jewish leaders of the day used to crucify Christ on the cross. The law of man often cast shadows in the light, Jesus is telling all of his disciples that the Law of God is the only law we should obey, the laws of man do not bring righteousness and salvation. Righteousness and salvation can only be found when one is a true believer in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

Augustine of Hippo, one of my favorite theologians and Church fathers summed it up like this, 'Love God, do what you like. But when you realize how God loved us, the one desire of life is to answer that love, and that is the greatest task in all the world, for it presents us with a task the like of which those who think in terms of the law never dream of, and with an obligation more binding than the obligation to any law.'

Live like Jesus because he loved you enough to save you from the damnation of your sin. Love onto others like he loved onto you. Jesus says live to please God and not the world.

Instead of asking ourselves 'is this a sin?' we should be asking ourselves 'Would this please God?'

If we are walking around this world wondering if something is sinful or not, we are living like the Jews with the Talmud, looking for the legalities of seeking out and doing what we want to do. If we live our lives thinking 'Would this please God' we are living our life as the salt and the light of this world.

So, as we leave here today after service let us all go forth into the world as salt, changing the people around us by bringing God into everything we do in this world. Let us be light and shine from our lives into the darkness around us, making people what sets us apart from this world, being a light that guides people to Christ, warns people of the darkness of sin, doing good that brings glory to God's name.

In all we think, say and do let us revere and respect our God, let us respect others, and ourselves living to please God as we let our faith move beyond the walls of the church into the community of Perth and beyond.

Let us all be a lighthouse that blows no horns but shines on the world around us.

Let us pray,
 Hear us, never-fading Light,
 Lord our God, our only Light,
 Fountain of light,
 Light of your angels, thrones, dominions,
 principalities, powers, and of all intelligent beings.
 You created the light of your saints.
 May our souls be your lamps,
 kindled and enlightened by you.
 May they shine and burn with the truth,
 and never go out in darkness and ashes.
 May we be your house,
 shining from you, shining in you.
 May we shine without fail.
 May we ever worship you.
 In you may we be kindled and not be extinguished.
 Being filled with the splendor of your Son,
 our Lord Jesus Christ, may we shine forth inwardly.
 May the gloom of sins be cleared away,
 and the light of constant faith abide within us.
 In the name of the Light of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ, we pray.
 Amen

Hymn: "Lamb of God"

Your only Son no sin to hide
 But You have sent Him from Your side
 To walk upon this guilty sod
 And to become the Lamb of God

Chorus:

Oh Lamb of God sweet Lamb of God
 I love the holy Lamb of God

Oh wash me in His precious blood
My Jesus Christ the Lamb of God

Your gift of love they crucified
They laughed and scorned Him as He died
The humble King they named a fraud
And sacrificed the Lamb of God (Chorus)

I was so lost I should have died
But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod
And to be called a lamb of God (Chorus)

Communion

Invitation to the Table

This is the joyful feast of the people of God!
They will come from east and west, and from north and south,
and sit at table in the kingdom of God.
This is the table not of one denomination, but of our one Lord Jesus Christ.
It is made ready for those who love him.
and those who want to love him more.
So come, you who have much faith and you who have little,
you who have been here often.
and you who have not been for a long time.
Our Saviour invites all those who trust him.
to share the feast which he has prepared.

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also, with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

With joy we praise you, gracious God, for you have created heaven and earth,
made us in your image, and kept covenant with us— even when we fell into sin.
We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord, who came as the light of the world
to show us your way of truth in parables and miracles.
Therefore, we join our voices with all the saints and angels and the whole creation
to proclaim the glory of your name.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 Hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Hosanna in the highest.**

With the coming of Jesus,
 the covenant with Israel was expanded and confirmed.
 Through Christ, the gates of salvation have been thrown open.
 Just as the Magi were welcomed at the cradle of the Christ child,
 so, God welcomes all strangers and those in need.
 into the covenant of blessing.
 Jesus Christ offered food to the hungry and water to the thirsty,
 shelter to the wanderer and justice to the oppressed,
 friendship to the lonely and kinship to the faithful.
 Jesus forgave sins, preached good news,
 and filled all people with the hope of new life.
 Jesus took upon himself the full consequences of our sinfulness—
 even the agony of abandonment by God—
 in order that we might be spared.
 But our Lord could not be held by the power of death.
 Jesus appeared to his followers,
 triumphant from the grave, in newness of life.
 He has shown us his hands and feet in order
 that we might know that the one who was crucified
 is the Lord and Savior of the world.

**Christ has died.
 Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again.**

Holy God,
 When the sounds of our rejoicing fall silent,
 we remember those who cannot rejoice today,
 who face times of pain or fear or upheaval.
 We think especially of those whose countries have been overwhelmed.
 by earthquake, flood and storm, by conflict, drought or famine.

Draw near to them in the power of the Spirit.
 to strengthen and sustain them through Christ's compassion and ours.

Holy Spirit, come now and settle on us
 and on these gifts of bread and wine.
 May they become for us Christ's body and life blood,

healing, forgiving, and making us whole.
 So may we become Christ's body, the Church,
 loving and caring throughout the whole world
 until that day when all creation feasts with you
 in the fullness of your mercy and peace. Amen.

The Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.
 I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the Virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.
 he descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again.
 he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. AMEN.**

The Story of the Last Supper

The Lord Jesus on the night he was betrayed took bread,
 and when he had given thanks for it, he broke it, and said,
 'This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'
 In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying,
 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in
 remembrance of me.'

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup,
 you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

(Breaking Bread)

This is the body of Christ broken for you.

(Raising cup)

This cup is the blood of Christ shed for you.

Prayer after Communion

Loving God, Christ our Lord, Holy Spirit,
 you have nourished us, body and soul, in this meal.
 We have heard your love, so send us out to speak it.
 We have seen your love, so send us out to show it.
 We have been fed by your love, so send us out to share it.
 And let all things be done for your glory. Amen.

Invitation to Offering**Offering**

Presenting our tithes and offerings is an act of worship. I want to encourage you to write a cheque and drop it in the mail to the church using your envelope, if you have one. (St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, PO Box 161, 1 Drummond St W, Perth, ON K7H 3E3). We also have another option for you for giving and that is you can make an e-Transfer. This note from our treasurer:

E-transfers are now accepted. Please note the new email address for this purpose only. standrewspert offering@gmail.com If you have an Offering Envelope #, please include it in the message section of the INTERAC transfer page you fill in. If you wish any part of your donation to go to a specific fund (e.g., Presbyterian Sharing) please mention this in your message.

Offertory Prayer

(Congregant Prepared)

Closing Hymn #389: "Breathe On Me, Breath of God"

Breathe on me, breath of God;
 fill me with life anew,
 that I may love what thou dost love
 and do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, breath of God,
 until my heart is pure,
 until with thee I will one will
 to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, breath of God,
 till I am wholly thine,
 until this earthly part of me
 glows with thy fire divine.

Pastoral Prayer

O Jesus, light of the world,
come into the dark places of this earth.
You bring a light from God that only you can shed.
Light eternal, your light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness does not overcome it.
We bring to you the darkness of our world.
in war, starvation, cruelty, and exploitation.
We bring to you the darkness of our earth,
damaged and defaced by pollution.
We bring to you the darkness of our nation,
beset with conflict of race and class, religion, and politics.
We bring to you the darkness of our relationships,
people not looking, not speaking, not listening, not forgiving.
We bring to you the darkness of our own souls,
hidden closets we have not visited or cleaned out for years.
O Jesus, light of the world, be a morning star above for us,
a radiance within, the shining all around that lets us live in love.
Only then shall we be reflectors of your brightness.
and give glory to God in heaven. Amen.

Benediction

May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ?
shine in our hearts, transform our lives,
and brighten the world.
And the blessing of God almighty,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
rest upon you always. Amen.